

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

RSR-01 /101 W

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4425

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L I S T A N B U L 2 6 4 7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, TU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT SIXTH FLEET SHIPS TO ISTANBUL

REF: ANKARA 6458

1. WE ANTICIPATE NO RPT NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES FOR
US SHIPS PER SE IN PROPOSED VISIT ISTANBUL FROM SEPT 30
TO OCT 5. HOWEVER, AS EMB AWARE, TIMING IS LESS THAN
PROSPEROUS SINCE IT OCCURS ONLY TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO ELECTIONS
AND FOLLOWING RASH OF OTHER SIXTH FLEET SHIP VISITS HERE
THIS SUMMER. WE BELIEVE THERE IS SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO
WHETHER VISIT BY FLAGSHIP AND USS WHITNEY WITH ALMOST
1500 PERSONNEL ABOARD MAY NOT BE OVERLOADING THE CIRCUIT
BOTH IN POLITICAL SENSE AND IN TERMS OUR ABILITY PROVIDE
NECESSARY SUPPORT SERVICES.

2. AS EMB ALSO AWARE, THERE IS GREAT LIKELIHOOD THAT
MARTIAL LAW WILL HAVE EXPIRED BY TIME OF PROPOSED VISIT.
WHILE WE DO NOT RPT NOT ANTICIPATE GENERAL SECURITY
SITUATION WILL CHANGE DRAMATICALLY OVERNIGHT, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE
POSSIBILITY THAT DISSIDENT ELEMENTS MIGHT ATTEMPT SEIZE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO MOUNT SOME TYPE OF PROTEST ACTIVITY. WE
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ALSO NOTE THAT VISIT NOW SCHEDULED FOR SIX-DAY PERIOD.

IF EMB DECIDES ON BALANCE THAT VISIT SHOULD BE APPROVED,
WE WOULD SUGGEST AT MINIMUM THAT IT BE REDUCED TO 3 OR 4 DAYS
AND THAT ADVANCE LIAISON PARTY PLAN ARRIVE MINIMUM OF 4
WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE OF SHIP ARRIVAL.

3. AS TO OFFER OF SIXTH FLEET MUSIC SHOW, WE DO NOT RPT
NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME. TIMING AND
SECURITY FACTORS NOTED ABOVE APPLY EVEN MORE STRONGLY IN
THIS CASE. DURING VISIT USS INDEPENDENCE WE RAISED WITH
GENERAL TURUN POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCE BY SMALL
BAND FROM CARRIER. HE WAS ADAMANT IN REFUSAL, STATING THAT
POSSIBILITY OF UNDESIRABLE INCIDENT JUST TOO GREAT. MORE-
OVER, WE BELIEVE PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANTAGE OF SUCH SHOW
AT THIS TIME WOULD BE MINIMAL AT BEST AND WOULD REQUIRE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WHICH, GIVEN GREAT
TURNOVER OF CONGEN PERSONNEL THIS SUMMER AND EVEN HEAVIER
THAN USUAL FLOOD OF VIP VISITORS, WE WOULD BE UNABLE
PROVIDE.

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